

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment in addition to the Rule §1.116 amendment which has been entered by the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination is requested.

By this amendment, claims 2, 3, 4 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice as such claims are intended to be refiled in a divisional application. New claim 13 is added and the dependency of claim 8 is revised to reflect the cancellation of claim 3.

The reasons which support distinction between Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1-14 and the cited references including Lo, Barrows and Gaezzi are set forth in the 1.116 amendment.

In Lo, the ferrule has a shank extending a considerable length through the tip end of the shaft. This causes Lo to teach completely opposite from Applicant's invention insofar as Applicant's invention relates to the reduction of the tip mass which is not taught or suggested by Lo.

The same reasoning applies to Gaezzi which has a metal spring attached to the tip for mounting the tip in the tie end bore in the shaft. The spring may weight more than the material removed from the shaft to form the bore. Again, this clearly indicates that Gaezzi has no appreciation and is directly opposed to any reduction in tip mass which serve the function set forth in Applicant's invention.

Barrows likewise has a plug mounted at the tip end of the bore in the shaft. The plug clearly adds weight to the tip end and is directly opposed and teaches away from Applicant's invention which reduces the tip mass by only the introduction of a bore in the tip end.

For these reasons, and for the reasons set forth in the Rule 1.116 amendment entered concurrently herewith, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 1, as well as claims 5, 6, and 8-12 which depend therefrom, patentably defines over the cited references taken singly.

In new claim 13, Applicant describes an alternate feature of his invention in which the hollow bore at the tip end of the shaft can be filed with a lightweight material which has a weight less than the weight of the tip end of the

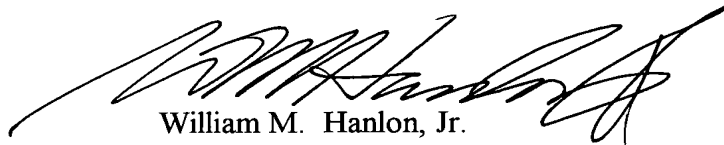
shaft. This coincides with Applicant's invention of a reduction in the tip end mass of the shaft to reduce cue ball deflection by enabling the tip end of the shaft to deflect out of contact with the cue ball quickly after impact with the cue ball.

Since each of the cited references is completely devoid of any such teaching or suggestion, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 13 patentably defines over the cited references and is not anticipated or even rendered obvious thereby.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1, 5, 6 and 8-13 patentably defines over each of the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that such claims are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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